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House of Representatives

CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAUCASIA ON THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DECLARATION OF INDE- PENDENCE

HON. ROBERT A. ROE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 11, 1976

Mr. ROE. Mr. Speaker, I have received a communique from the Honorable Tschirum Soobzokov of my congressional District, who is President of the Committee for Liberation of North Caucasians, Inc., requesting that I call to the attention of you and our colleagues here in the Congress the plight of the freedom-loving people of North Caucasians in seeking independence as a free state among the nations of the world and join with North Caucasians of Paterson, N.J., and the North Caucasian-American community throughout our country in commemorating this week, May 9-15 of our Bicentennial Year, as North Caucasian Independence Week.

On May 11, 1918 the North Caucasians, having survived many bloody battles since the Russian conquest of 1864, declared their independence and with your permission, I would like to insert at this point in our historical journal of Congress a brief summary of the oppression of the North Caucasians forwarded to me by the Committee for Liberation of North Caucasians, Inc. The summary is as follows:

THE HISTORY OF THE OPPRESSION OF
NORTH CAUCASIANS

The North Caucasians have suffered Russian enslavement for a long time, but little of this has been known to the free world. One of the reasons is that the North Cau-

casians are little known, and their cause is overshadowed by other enslaved European people who are better known to the Western world, such as the Poles, Hungarians, and the Ukrainians. Since the suffering of the North Caucasians, as well as of these peoples, is a result of Soviet Imperialism and since freedom should be enjoyed by all peoples regardless of nationality, it is important that the oppression of North Caucasians be made known.

The North Caucasians, like the peoples who inhabit the Caucasus, have lived under Soviet rule. Through the ages, the North Caucasian people struggled bitterly against any oppression and tried to deny them the right to be free. In the 19th century, however, with an intensification of the Tsarist Russian imperial scheme to reach the warm waters of the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, the North Caucasian position became more serious, being inhabitants of the corridor which leads to the Persian Gulf, the North Caucasians fell under constant Russian aggression. From the outset, the North Caucasians realized, owing to their small numbers, the futility of their fight against the colossal Russian. But they made their choice to die on their feet rather than to live on their knees. The whole first part of the 19th century, the North Caucasians fought the tremendous Russian Army without any outside help. After six decades of fighting, in 1901, Russia claimed that she pacified the North Caucasians by forcing over half a million people into mass exile. Most of these exiles were absorbed into the Ottoman Empire and their descendants are still living in several countries of the Middle East.

The North Caucasians who remained in the Caucasus under Russian rule, lived through several periods of oppression by the Russian Government, but without any success. When the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 took place, the North Caucasians as well as other subjugated peoples of the Caucasus, seized the golden opportunity to re-organize themselves as a free people and began to organize themselves into a democratic republic. But as soon as the Bolsheviks established themselves, the whole Caucasus once again came under the Rus-

sian yoke. This time the Russians, instead of being white, were red, more efficient, more ruthless. They enforced their domination on the people, massacring those who did not accept so-called Marxist dogma. Many North Caucasians who took against the new name of the Caucasus, killed, and some, who escaped, moved to the Caucasus. Thus the second round of North Caucasian took place.

Between the two World Wars, the Caucasians experienced the most severe and subjugation in their history. With the Second World War started, once again North Caucasians took it upon an opportunity to free themselves and joined sides with their Communist masters. Again the oppressed, and again some managed to escape to the free world. The North Caucasians of Paterson are some of these who have found haven in the United States and are the third exodus of the North Caucasians.

Although the North Caucasians of Paterson are lucky to find refuge in the States, where they enjoy the blessing of democratic institutions and human rights, they cannot free themselves from the memory of their blood, tears, and pain, who are not free but are enslaved. The North Caucasians of Paterson see their duty to raise their voice and let the world know the people of the free world about their case and cause.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the many congressional Districts and the State of New Jersey, I join in this commemorative service of the North Caucasians, and trust that through our endeavors and responsibilities, we will strive to continue to reaffirm our national understanding and agree that will eliminate the oppression of people and restore human rights in relation of self-determination by the people of the so-called captive nations of the world.

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